



The Washington Connection

Congresswoman **Candice Miller**

<http://candicemiller.house.gov>

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Hearing marks beginning of federal action on Great Lakes issues

WASHINGTON, DC — Congresswoman Candice Miller participated in a hearing on water quality in the Great Lakes on Jan. 23. The hearing was held in the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, of which Miller is a member. Miller released the following statement:



problem of combined sewer overflows, invasive species and low water levels among many others."

"I am confident that today's hearings mark the beginning of sustained federal action to deal with the many challenges facing the lakes. I look for-

"Today's hearing was an important step forward in highlighting the challenges faced by our Great Lakes," said Miller. "Since my appointment to the committee I have called for hearings such as these and now because of today's hearing I believe we have begun to build momentum in Congress with dealing with many of these critical challenges."

Miller continued, "These hearings highlighted issues from industrial and municipal pollution, the issue of phosphorous contamination and algal blooms, the

ward to working with my colleagues on the committee and in the full House to address these challenges so that we can protect and preserve our precious Great Lakes."

"Recognizing how damaging excess phosphorus in the water is, I plan on introducing in the coming weeks federal legislation to restrict phosphorus in the Great Lakes basin."

Rep. Miller to introduce ban on phosphorous in Great Lakes Basin

New legislation could prompt a reduction in residential phosphorous use to improve water quality in the Great Lakes

WASHINGTON, DC — As Congress listened to testimony on Jan. 23 about efforts to improve the water quality in the Great Lakes, Rep. Candice Miller announced that she intends to introduce legislation restricting residential use of fertilizer and dish detergent in the Great Lakes Basin.

Minnesota has already taken the step, putting its ban into effect in 2005. The other Great Lakes states include Illinois, Indiana,

Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Miller said today's hearing "highlighted issues from industrial and municipal pollution, the issue of phosphorous contamination and algal blooms, the problem of combined sewer overflows, invasive species and low water levels among many others."

Miller sits on the House subcommittee on water resources and

environment, where a new Government Accountability Office report was released.

Miller said she plans to introduce her proposed restrictions shortly. A new report out of Minnesota on its ban concludes that consumers are not paying more for the phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer. But it also said it is too early to detect improvements in water quality because of the new law.

Editorial: Cox ruling will keep illegal aliens from getting licenses

The Oakland Press

Attorney General Mike Cox has ruled that illegal immigrants can no longer get a driver's license. We applaud the Michigan attorney general for his actions, which clarifies provisions of seemingly conflicting state laws.

Michigan laws have long prohibited the secretary of state from issuing driver's licenses to nonresidents. Cox said it's inconsistent to regard an illegal immigrant as a permanent resident of Michigan, although admittedly the illegals would sure like to be.

"There can be no doubt that a rational basis exists for denying driver's licenses to illegal aliens," Cox has said.

We agree, and we're not alone.

Shortly after Cox made his ruling public, U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, a Harrison Township Republican and a former



Michigan secretary of state, praised the legal opinion.

"Attorney General Cox's opinion is long overdue and is welcome," Miller said. "Stopping the issuing of driver licenses and state ID cards to illegal aliens will greatly assist our national efforts to secure our borders, as well as dissuade illegals from coming to Michigan for their identification documents."

Whether illegal immigrants should get licenses has become a major political issue, as noted in recent reports from The Associated Press.

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer proposed to give driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, but he ended up withdrawing the plan after intense opposition.

In an earlier statement, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said the Spitzer proposal "makes a lot of sense" and then added, "I did not say that it should be done."

She later said she is opposed to issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.

We don't see the driver's license issue as a threat to national security, as some have implied.

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Rep. Miller: AG Cox and Sec. of State Land's decision on licenses "long overdue"

WASHINGTON, DC — Congresswoman Candice Miller hailed the opinion by Attorney General Mike Cox that allows Michigan to stop giving illegal aliens driver's licenses and state-issued identity documents on Dec. 27, 2007.

"Attorney General Cox's opinion is long overdue and is welcome," Miller said. "Michigan remains one of only eight states in the entire nation to continue this unexplainable practice. Stopping the issuing of driver's licenses and state ID cards to illegal aliens will greatly assist our national efforts to secure our borders as well as dissuade illegals from coming to Michigan for their identification documents.

"It is my hope that by finally taking this step in the right direction, Michigan can go even further to ensure the integrity of

our state's most vital identity documents."

Miller also praised the action of Secretary of State Terri Land on Jan. 22 to refuse to provide Michigan driver's licenses or state issued identification cards to illegal aliens.

"I applaud the Secretary of State's action in light of the opinion by Attorney General Mike Cox that Michigan should not be providing driver's licenses or state ID cards to those here unlawfully," Miller said. "This is long overdue and protects the state's identification process from fraud. I look forward to the full implementation of the Real ID Act."



Rep. Miller believes REAL ID should be implemented in Michigan to enhance national and statewide security.

Editorial: Health of Great Lakes must be a top priority

Officials agree: Phosphorous problem requires a comprehensive solution to keep the Great Lakes thriving

The Huron Daily Tribune

Phosphorous has become a key buzzword — and target — in the fight to clean up our Great Lakes.

Muck and algal blooms both can be traced to waters that have high levels of phosphorous. While the testing can be extremely complex, you don't have to be a scientist to know that the end results are negative impacts on water quality, boating, property values and, of course, tourism. That's why shoreline counties in Michigan, including Huron, are going after phosphorous.

In Bay County, officials have banned lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus. The ordinance will be enforced by the Environmental Health Division of the Bay County Health Department, the resolution states. Those found in violation of the ordinance will be subjected to civil infraction penalties started at \$50 per violation.

Huron County officials are in favor of banning use of lawn fertilizers with phosphorous as well as continued to talk about such a measure during the second week of January. Our county commissioners seem to agree that such

a ban makes sense but they also want to make sure when they enact such a measure it can be enforced — and will make a difference. They're looking for a measure that won't simply be all bark.

We are encouraged by their eagerness to address the phosphorus issue — and the desire to create ordinances that can and will lead to action.

And we agree with U.S. Rep. Candice Miller who is urging Michigan to address this as a statewide issue. It certainly is something that affects us all, and having one standard in place certainly makes the most sense. But, it needs to be a strong standard — with teeth — and we can't wait years to see it come around. We urge all of our state legis-

lators to make the health of the Great Lakes a top priority now that they are back in session.



One of Rep. Miller's principle advocacies is the protection and preservation of the Great Lakes. Minimizing phosphorous would maximize their health.

(Continued) Editorial: Cox ruling will keep illegal aliens from getting licenses

We doubt terrorism would be prevented simply because someone can't obtain a driver's license.

And yes, the overall problem of illegal aliens must be dealt with on a national level. Somehow, our porous borders must be strengthened and that can only occur with our politicians in Washington despite that fact that the issue is clearly critical to the health of our nation and not just a "political football."

It is much more than that. Just from a health care standpoint, no hospital can refuse treatment to an individual, whether they are a citizen or an illegal alien. And, of course, it's U.S. taxpayers

who pay for that person's health care.

Our health care costs are outrageous enough without forcing those of us who try to do the right thing and pay our bills to fork over extra premium dollars to cover illegal immigrants.

Yes, there are millions of illegals in the U.S., but that doesn't mean they should be given amnesty and made citizens. They need to become citizens through proper channels and if it means deporting those who are here illegally, so be it.

It took decades for the current problem to develop and it may take decades to resolve, but it can be resolved and only when our leaders in Washington decide to do "what's

best for the country" and not "what's best for them."

Yes, national action is needed, but that said, it is important to establish standards that dictate persons in this country abide by our laws.

Falsifying documents to obtain a driver's license should not be ignored.

And states with guidelines over the rules to obtain a license should ensure there are no conflicting provisions.



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Washington Connection Weekly



This Month's Radio Addresses:

2/7/08—Proposal to raise federal gas tax a non-starter

2/14/08—Digital television switch

2/21/08—Time to close the loophole for official state documentation for illegal aliens

2/28/08—Economic stimulus must put low- and middle-income families first

Visit our website at <http://candicemiller.house.gov>

Rep. Miller announces federal funding for local community organizations

WASHINGTON, DC — Congresswoman Candice Miller sponsored the allotment of federal funding to support organizations in Michigan's 10th District. The projects were included in the Omnibus domestic spending legislation that passed the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate during the week of Dec. 23, 2007.

"These projects are good for Michigan and a good use of federal funds," Miller said.

The allotments are as follows:

St. Clair County Community College

Amount: \$143,450

SC4's Water Quality Technology Program will have its core curriculum, equipment and facilities expanded. As a result, students in St. Clair County will be able to learn how to protect the Great Lakes in a top facility.

St. Clair County Airport

Amount: \$294,000

Infrastructure will be updated and other general improvements will be made. These improvements will promote additional economic activity in St. Clair County.

Macomb County Public Safety Communications System

Amount: \$352,500

Local municipalities in Macomb County, including police, fire and EMS responders, will acquire radios, dispatch consoles and control stations so they can plug in to the County's radio infrastructure.

St. John's North Shore Hospital

Amount: \$191,500

St. John North Shores will construct a physical therapy center. This center will provide rehabilitative services to help patients achieve faster recoveries from surgery and other health benefits.

Lapeer Regional Medical Center CT Simulator

Amount: \$395,400

LRMC's Cancer Center houses a linear accelerator which provides radiation services for cancer patients. The center will offer comprehensive cancer treatment services and will save patients countless hours of travel to facilities outside of Lapeer County.

Greater Lapeer Transportation Authority

Amount: \$196,000

Vehicles that are beyond their lifecycles in terms of both years and miles of service will

be replaced. Funding might also be used to construct a perimeter fence needed to prevent vandalism of GLTA property.

Lexington Harbor Dredging

Amount: \$162,360

Corps of Engineers will be able to perform needed maintenance dredging to compensate in part for low lake levels. This will ensure the safety and viability of recreational boating in Lexington as well as maintaining recreational boating and tourism as important economic impetuses for Lexington.

Port Sanilac Harbor Dredging

Amount: \$138,744

Corps of Engineers will be able to perform needed maintenance dredging and compensate in part for low lake levels. This will ensure the safety and viability of recreational boating in Lexington as well as maintaining recreational boating and tourism as important economic impetuses for Port Sanilac.

Sanilac Transportation Authority

Amount: \$392,000

The construction of a bus garage will be funded.